

## WHEN IN A TRIAL (Part 2) - Acts 16:27-34 – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

- Acts 16 is proving to be an amazing, and even exciting, chapter as we see what happens to Paul on this, his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey.
- His mission's team consists of Silas, who was sent out with him from the church in Antioch, and Timothy who joined them in Lystra.
- While they're in Troas, they are then joined by a physician named Luke, who is the writer of the Gospel of Luke, and this book of Acts.
- We left off with Paul and Silas in prison here in Philippi, and Luke, who was there, tells us, by the Holy Spirit, what happens next.

- To me, the text we have before us is perhaps one of the most, if not the most, amazing and astonishing passages in the entire book!
- Perhaps this is one reason we have this detailed account. It's to provide us with practical instruction when we are in a trial

- This is part 2 of a teaching titled; "When in a Trial." We've been looking at how Paul and Silas respond when they are thrown in prison.
- Maybe you're here this morning, and you've been thrown head first, into a trial, and don't know why, let alone, what you can do.
- It's been said that all of us are either right now in trial, just coming out of trial, or are about to experience trial.

- 1. Pray and praise God (Verse 25)** - After being beaten mercilessly, Paul and Silas are thrown into prison where they pray and sing.
- 2. Stay until God says go (Verse 26)** - After doors fly open, and the chains fly off, Paul and Silas stay instead of running.

### 3. Lead others to the Lord (Verses 27-30)

27 The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. 28 But **Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!"** 29 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

v27 The jailer, who was actually sleeping, woke up, and seeing what happened was about to commit suicide thinking they all escaped.  
v28 Apparently, Paul who was in close proximity to him sees what he's about to do and yells to him to not do it because no one escaped.  
v29-30 He has light brought in, then rushes in, and falls trembling before Paul and Silas asking them; "what must I do to be saved?"

- Question: What brought this hardened prison warden to his face before God?
- Answer: I don't believe it was so much the supernatural earthquake as much as it was the love and grace shown by Paul and Silas.
- Not only did Paul and Silas' staying save his life, it saved his soul for eternal life. Some suggest this is the very warden who beat them.
- Also, you've got to know that he had never seen inmates respond like this when beaten and imprisoned, especially without a fair trial.
- He knew there was something different about them, the earthquake and miraculous loosing of the chains simply confirmed it to him.
- He wanted what they had, namely, the true and living God. Would to God that people would read our lives, and thus, want our God.

### 4. Speak the Word (Verses 31-34)

31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." 32 Then **they spoke the word of the Lord** to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. 34 The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

v31 They tell the jailer to "believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved," as will his entire family if they will believe in Jesus also.  
v32-33 Paul and Silas "speak the Word" to all in his house and they believe and are baptized, after he washes their wounds.  
v34 The Jailer then brings them into his house for a meal, and we're told that the entire family was filled with the joy of their salvation.

- Question: Why is it so important to not only know the Word but to speak the Word?
- Answer: Because when we're in a trial, the Word comes to life.

- Question: Why do we as Christians have to go through trials?
- Answer: There are a number of reasons for this, consider the following:

#### 1. To advance the Gospel

**Philippians 1:12-14** 12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. NIV

#### 2. To keep us from going astray

**Psalm 119:67, 75** Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. ...75 I know, O LORD, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me. NIV

#### 3. To refine and purify us

**Isaiah 48:10** Behold, I have refined thee, but not as silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. ASV

#### 4. To prove us genuine

**1 Peter 1:6-7** 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. NIV